

SENATOR NICHOL: Okay.

SENATOR GEORGE: That I think would mean an increase, could mean a considerable increase. That is the reason for my amendment.

SENATOR NICHOL: All right. I think I support your amendment.

SENATOR BARNETT: Senator Carstens. Senator Carstens, please on the Senator George amendment.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I would like to ask Senator George a question, if I may. I anticipate under your amendment the projections the Legislature would be receiving would be from the same source that they are now received by the Board of Equalization, is that correct?

SENATOR GEORGE: That is correct, Senator Carsten.

SENATOR CARSTEN: After a day such as today, Senator George, do you believe 49 members in this body can arrive at figures that would be acceptable enough to at least 25 members to set the rates, the tax rates, for the state?

SENATOR GEORGE: It would be a rather spirited debate, I could imagine that, yes, because everybody has to make some compromises. If we want to take that responsibility upon us, I think we have to come to compromise in an earlier stage of the session and not simply total it up in the last two or three days of the session.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Basically, what you are doing with your amendment is saying that we are going to set the dollars that we are going to raise in the State of Nebraska and budget accordingly, is that what you are saying?

SENATOR GEORGE: Yes, we do set it after the first two months.

SENATOR CARSTEN: And then we pass appropriation measures or whatever monies we appropriate for state services according to that rate state scale that we set then?

SENATOR GEORGE: We would be forced to do that, yes.

SENATOR CARSTEN: What would happen if, because between the time that we set those rates and we adjourn, we find that the projection has been improper and there is a revision and maybe there is an emergency that arises in that time that creates another problem for us to look at, what will you do then?

SENATOR GEORGE: I would not advocate a special session right away but that would be the first thing that would come to my mind. I realize, Senator Carsten, that in that respect the present method might be the better one because the Board of Equalization meets fifteen days after we have finished and, of course, they do have a much clearer picture, but I am just going from the premise that we will take over and set the tax rates. That is the premise that I have to work with.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Okay, thank you, Senator George.